

August 7, 2013

To whom it may concern:

My late great-uncle first began working with the blind almost 75 years ago; he was a pioneer in developing techniques that advanced independence for people who are blind. Thus, since I was a young child, I was taught that people who are blind are capable of doing almost anything on their own and that they do not need to be coddled in any way. Technology today has helped blind people achieve even more advances, and the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) was to allow people who are blind or visually impaired to take further advantage of modern technology.

I am concerned about the implementation of CVAA, however. Congress intended for TVs and TV-like equipment to be readily and regularly available at commercial retail stores for their constituents who need them. It is not fair or right that people who are blind or visually impaired would have to request accessible TVs and/or other similar equipment directly from a manufacturer. In this day and age, there is absolutely no reason that people who are blind or visually impaired should not be able to purchase the televisions they want and need just like sighted people can. People who are blind or visually impaired encounter enough hurdles in their daily lives, and it is not fair to impose an additional and unnecessary hurdle on the community, especially one that goes against Congressional intent.

Thank you very much for standing up for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Sincerely,

C. L. Engelhardt